General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 92 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/55/579/Add.4)*]

55/185. Strengthening the coordination of the mechanisms on the Commission for Science and Technology for Development: promoting complementarity of activities in the area of new and innovative technologies within the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 54/201 of 22 December 1999,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration entitled "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy", adopted by the Economic and Social Council during the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2000,[1]

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/29 of 28 July 2000 on the information and communication technologies task force,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development, noting the work being undertaken by the Commission in its work programme for Member States, especially the developing countries, and its work with some countries with economies in transition, emphasizing the importance of the activities that are to be pursued within the framework of the Commission, including a broad spectrum of new global challenges in science and technology, and encouraging support for those undertakings,

Cognizant of the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat responsible for the substantive servicing of the Commission,

Taking note of the Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session, held at Bangkok from 12 to

[1] A/55/3, chap. III, para. 17. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

19 February 2000,[2] in which the Conference noted, inter alia, the growing technology gap between developed and developing countries, and stressed that actions were required by both developed and developing countries, among others, including the establishment of appropriate policy and legal frameworks, human resource development and the provision of technical assistance and, where possible, financial assistance and other incentives in order to narrow that gap and promote greater access, transfer and diffusion of technology to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Recognizing the need to address the obstacles faced by developing countries in accessing new technologies, while taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries,

Recognizing also the importance of establishing and strengthening partnership and networking among the public and private sectors and academic institutions of the South and the North to build and strengthen the technological capabilities and skills needed for developing countries to compete in the international markets,

Bearing in mind the cross-cutting nature of science and technology within the United Nations system and the need, inter alia, for effective policy guidance and better coordination,

Noting that the theme of the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council will be "The role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector",

Recalling that the next biennial session of the Commission will be held in 2001,

Recognizing the need for adequate resources, including the provision of new and additional resources from all sources, to be devoted to fostering science and technology for development,

Recognizing also the need for strengthening the role of the Commission,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for strengthening the coordination of the mechanisms on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development with the objective of promoting complementarity of activities within the United Nations system;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the recommendations regarding the establishment of a knowledge and technology for development network contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Requests* the Commission to report on its biennial session, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in particular regarding proposals aimed at promoting complementarity of activities in the area of new and innovative technologies within the United Nations system;

[2] TD/390, part II.
[3] A/55/96-E/2000/84.

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to strengthen the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, by providing it with the necessary resources, in order to enable it to carry out better its mandate of assisting the developing countries with their national development efforts in the field of science and technology;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, an analytical report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, containing, in particular, concrete proposals for strengthening the critical role of the Commission in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in support of the efforts of developing countries to obtain, effectively utilize and benefit from science and technology for their development;

6. *Decides* that, as from the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the item entitled "Science and technology for development" will normally be included in its agenda on a biennial basis.

87th plenary meeting
20 December 2000